

SWIMMING POOLS

Hamilton County Planning and Development, Room 801 County Administration Building (513) 946-4550

I. **WHEN IS A POOL PERMIT REQUIRED?**

A pool permit is required for all public swimming pools. Family (residential) swimming pools that are more than 24 inches in depth at any point, or greater than 150 square feet in surface area also require pool permits. Pool permits are required to help safeguard against life-threatening accidents. A family (residential) swimming pool is any built or unitized accessory structure consisting of a basin or tank of water for swimming and diving by the homeowner and family, and their invited guests only. This definition excludes hot tubs, spas and ponds. All swimming pools other than a family (residential) swimming pool shall be classified as a public swimming pool.

II. **WHAT CODES/REGULATIONS ARE APPLICABLE?**

All work performed must be in accordance with the *Ohio Building Code*, the *Hamilton County Building Code*, the *Hamilton County Zoning Resolution* (or applicable Township Zoning Code), the *Ohio Administrative Code*, and all other applicable laws and ordinances. Contact the following agencies:

Hamilton County Department of Building Inspections	(513) 946-4550
Hamilton County Zoning Department (or local township zoning administrator)	(513) 946-4501
Hamilton County Public Works	(513) 946-4750
Hamilton County General Health & Plumbing (private sewage system on lot)	(513) 946-7800
Inspection Bureau	(513) 381-6080
Ohio Department of Health (Public Pools Only)	(614) 644-5597

III. **HOW DO I OBTAIN A PERMIT FOR A POOL?**

NOTE: The Zoning Certificate and electrical permit number must accompany the pool permit application. Complete a pool permit application and submit three copies (six commercial) of the approved site plan to the Department of Building Inspections, Room 803 County Administration Building, 138 E. Court Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. A non-refundable plan processing fee must be paid at the time of application. Contact a Building Department Permit Specialist for details prior to submitting.

NOTE: Filing of an application for a pool permit does not constitute permission to begin the work. An acceptable set of plans should include the following:

- A. Plot Plan - Drawn to a uniform scale (not less than 1" = 50 feet) showing:
 - 1. Property lines (and dimensions).
 - 2. All existing structures, the proposed pool, and pool enclosure (see minimum pool enclosure requirements below).
 - 3. Dimensions from the pool to property lines and to other structures.
 - 4. North arrow.
- B. Minimum Pool Enclosure Requirements:
 - 1. Enclosure Devices. Every person owning land on which a family (residential) swimming pool is situated, which constitutes an obvious hazard, or which is more than 24 inches in depth at any point or greater than 150 square feet in surface area, shall erect and maintain thereon an enclosure surrounding the pool area, sufficient to make such a body of water inaccessible to small children.
 - * Pool enclosures, including gates, must be not less than forty-eight (48) inches tall. This measurement should be taken from up to four (4) feet beyond the enclosure.
 - * All gates must be self-closing & self-latching with all latches placed on the inside of the enclosure high enough to render the gate inoperable by small children.
 - * All enclosures shall have intermediate rails or ornamental closures which will not allow the passage of an object four (4) inches or more in diameter.

Exceptions:

- a. Pools with walls forty-eight (48) inches or higher above grade require no enclosure. Grade must prevail for at least four (4) feet beyond the pool wall.
 - b. Above-ground pools with walls forty-eight (48) inches tall or higher and with decks and removable ladders as the sole means of access need no enclosure if the ladder is removed to render the pool inaccessible to small children when not in use.
 - c. Pools with fencing attached to the top of the wall making the total height over forty-eight (48) inches high require no further enclosure.
2. Pool Covers. Manufactured, mechanically operated or manually closed horizontal pool covers may be installed without a building permit, but such covers are not considered as a substitute or replacement for the enclosure required above.

IV. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS**

All public swimming pools are required to have approval by the Ohio Department of Health in accordance with Rule 3701-31-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

The approval of all county and state authorities having jurisdiction over swimming pools shall be obtained by the applicant before applying to the code official for approval. Certified copies of these approvals shall be filed as part of the supporting data for the plan approval application. Public pools and towers or slide structures exceeding three meters in height, shall be engineered and designed to withstand all applied loads. The towers or slide structures shall be provided with a stairway designed and constructed in accordance with the Ohio Basic Building Code.

Contact the aforementioned agencies for additional requirements and regulations for public pools.

V. **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I APPLY FOR MY PERMIT?**

The aforementioned agencies will review the application. If any of the agencies have questions or comments, they will contact the applicant (the person who signed the application form). Upon receipt of the necessary approvals, a Building Department Permit Specialist will notify the applicant that the permit is ready and the balance of the permit fee that may be due.

VI. **WHAT IS REQUIRED AFTER THE PERMIT IS ISSUED?**

All work must be performed in accordance with the approved plans, the *Ohio Building Code*, the *Hamilton County Building Code*, the *Hamilton County Zoning Resolution* (or applicable Township Zoning Code), the *National Electric Code* and other applicable ordinances. The permit will expire if work is not started, is postponed, abandoned, or an inspection is not requested within six months of the issue date.

VII. **INSPECTIONS REQUIRED (24 hour minimum notice)**

Hamilton County Department of Building Inspections (513) 946-3780

Pools require three (3) inspections. The applicant is legally responsible to call for all inspections.

1. Soil Inspection (after excavation is complete)
2. Electrical Inspection (after electric work is complete, but not covered)
3. Final Inspection (after the pool, enclosure and electric are complete)

Hamilton County General Health District (513) 946-7800

Inspection Bureau, Inc. (513) 381-6080

Hamilton County Zoning Department (or applicable township zoning) (513) 946-4501